

From: Valliappa Lakshmanan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:46pm
Subject: Enforcement provisions

Sir,

I am a research scientist developing weather analysis techniques at the University of Oklahoma. Ever since the Department of Justice in the previous (Clinton) administration started to pursue Microsoft for antitrust violations, it has become easier for us to purchase computer hardware capable of running the Linux operating system from mainstream companies such as Dell and Gateway. With the Department of Justice in the current (Bush) administration essentially giving Microsoft a free pass, I have no doubt that these companies will be bullied into avoiding Linux workstations altogether or into introducing "features" that preclude the use of non-Microsoft operating systems.

Whenever we purchase a machine with Windows loaded on it, it takes us upto 3 days to delete the Windows operating system, to install Linux and test the installation, longer if everything does not work correctly. This is time and manpower that we could use more productively, in active research. Of course, we also end up paying for an operating system that we never use. Since we are funded by the National Science Foundation and other U.S. government agencies, this wastage ultimately comes from the American taxpayer.

Please do not allow the marketplace for operating systems to become stratified by accepting the weak enforcement provisions proposed by the DoJ. Strict enforcement is essential to keep innovation and competition in the computer market place.

Thank you.
V Lakshmanan